

Apricot Blossom Festival 2025 celebrated at Garkone Village

Kargil, April 13, 2025: As part of the ongoing Apricot Blossom Festival 2025 (Chuli Mendok), the Department of Tourism, Kargil, today organized a vibrant cultural event at Garkone village in Kargil, one of the prominent apricot-producing areas of the region.

Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Hanifa Jan graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, was the guest of honour. Among other distinguished attendees were Additional SP Kargil Nitin Yadav, nominated Councillor Regzin Gurmuth, former CEC Leh Gyal Wangyal, officers from the Indian Army, national and international tourists, video bloggers, folk artists, and enthusiastic local villagers.

In his address, MP Hanifa Jan emphasized the cultural and economic significance of the Chuli Mendok festival, highlighting Garkone and its neighbouring villages as key apricot producers in the district. He expressed optimism that such festivals would project a positive image of the region globally and help attract more visitors.

He also urged the Tourism Department, Kargil to prepare a dedicated annual events calendar and promote the festival on a larger scale.

He noted that such celebrations not only promote tourism but also strengthen unity, peace, and cultural harmony. The MP assured full support for future festivals and expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and tourists who participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Saket Kushwaha underscored the importance of academic research in the Aryan Valley, announcing that the Dard Aryan language would soon be introduced as a subject at the University of Ladakh.

He encouraged youth involvement and appreciated the efforts of senior musicians and folk dancers for preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region. He also expressed hope that more such cultural events would be held regularly.

The program featured colorful cultural performances by local artists and children, leaving the audience captivated. Earlier, Councillor Regzin Gurmuth delivered the welcome address, expressing gratitude to all guests and visitors for joining the celebration in the scenic Aryan Valley.

The Apricot Blossom Festival is being celebrated across Kargil district from April 11 to April 21, allowing visitors to witness the enchanting apricot bloom and explore a range of apricot-based products. The festival schedule includes events at Sanjaq (April 11), Garkone (April 13), Hardass (April 15), Shilikchey (April 17), and Gongma Minji (April 19), culminating in Karkitchhu on April 21.





